

both in the descriptions of different authors and in those of the same author at different times. It is, therefore, a matter of much difficulty to construct a classification of the Eared Seals which will prove satisfactory and conclusive, and it is doubtful whether the specimens in our museums are yet sufficiently numerous to give definite data of the variations in the skull engendered by age and sex, so that we may avoid confounding the sexual and age modifications with those that have a generic or specific value.

Dr. Gray in his latest writings¹ made in all eighteen species of Eared Seals, which he arranged in nine genera. Professor Peters in his latest monograph² recognised only thirteen species, which he classed in three genera, as follows:—

*Otaria.*sp. *jubata*.*Eumetopias.*sp. *stelleri*.*gillespii* (misspelt *gilliespii*).*cinerea*.*hookeri*.*Arctocephalus.*sp. *pusillus*.*falklandicus*.*brevipes*.*elegans*.*forsteri*.*gazella*.*philippii*.*ursinus*.

Mr. Allen in his History of the North American Pinnipeds divides the Otariidæ into the subfamilies Trichophocaceæ and Ouliphocaceæ. In the Trichophocaceæ, which are distinguished by a harsh pelage without under-fur, he places the genera *Otaria*, sp. *jubata*; *Phocarctos*, sp. *hookeri*; *Eumetopias*, sp. *stelleri*; and *Zalophus*, spp. *californianus* and *lobatus*. In the Ouliphocaceæ, which are distinguished by a soft pelage with abundant under-fur, are the genera *Callorhinus*, sp. *ursinus*; and *Arctocephalus*, spp. *australis* (*falklandicus*), *antarcticus* (*pusillus*), and *forsteri*. This division, which is essentially based on differences in the character of the pelage, corresponds to the older and more popular nomenclature of Hair-Seals or Sea Lions, and Fur-Seals or Sea Bears. Dr. Burmeister arranges³ the Hair-Seals into the genera *Otaria*, sp. *jubata*, *Eumetopias*, spp. *stelleri* and *californianus*, and *Phocarctos*, spp. *cinereus* and *hookeri*; and the Fur-Seals into the genera *Arctophoca*, spp. *falclandica* (*australis*), *cinerea*, and *forsteri*, and *Arctocephalus*, spp. *ursinus*, *philippii*, *gazella*, and *pusillus*. Professor Flower again⁴ includes all the Eared Seals in the single genus *Otaria*, and he regards the different Sea

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xiii.; Hand List of Seals, 1874.

² *Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, August 9, 1877.

³ *Die Seehunde der argentinischen Küsten*, Buenos Aires, 1883.

⁴ *Catalogue of Vertebrated Animals in Museum of Royal College of Surgeons*, pt. ii., 1884; and *Article Mammalia*, *Ency. Brit.*, 9th ed.